

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

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CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION

REF ID: AFD

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/HSSA

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 22 JUNE 1974

SUBJECT: SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD INDIA AND THE RECENT NUCLEAR

TEST

25X1A2g

REF:

IN MID-JUNE A MIDDLE-LEVEL

SOVIET DIPLOMAT

MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS

--THE PREVIOUSLY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE USSR HAVE DECLINED, PARTLY AS RESULT OF INDIA'S RECENT TURN FROM SOCIALISM TOWARD CAPITALISM.

--THE SOVIET UNION REALIZES THAT THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF INDIA CAN BE MET ONLY BY THE WEST, BUT THE PRICE INDIA WILL HAVE TO PAY INCLUDES A REJECTION OF SOVIET

A CHANGE IN RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

DATE:

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SENSITIVE

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--THE USSR WAS NOT INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST. AMBASSADOR MALTSEV RETURNED TO MOSCOW TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BLAST ON INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS AS WELL AS ON INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF SOUTH ASIA. IF THE TEST IS TRULY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO MEET ITS ENERGY SHORTAGES, THE USSR WELCOMES THIS STEP.

--BUT THE SOVIETS FEAR THAT INDIA MAY BE PRESSED BY CONGRESS PARTY CHAUVINIST ELEMENTS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IF SUCH OCCURS, THE USSR APPEARS FOR PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA.

--THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY PROVIDES FOR CONSULTATION IN THE EVENT OF A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF EITHER COUNTRY. THE TREATY COULD EASILY HAVE PROVIDED A SOVIET NUCLEAR UMBRELLA TO INDIA IN TIME OF NEED, THUS ELIMINATING ANY NECESSITY ON INDIA'S PART TO DEVELOP INDEPENDENTLY A NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEM, WHICH THE USSR DOUBTS THE INDIAN ECONOMY CAN SUSTAIN. E-2 IMPDET-H

3 SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR & NEA DIVS AND NTOS [REDACTED]

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